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about 44% identical and about 59% similar to human connective tissue
growth factor-1 (SEQ ID NO:3)(Figure 2).

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-6 and 8-23¹ without prejudice or disclaimer.

Kindly add the following new claims 24-67:

24. (New) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a polynucleotide
selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) a polynucleotide encoding amino acid residues -19 to +231 of SEQ ID NO:2;
- (b) a polynucleotide encoding amino acid residues -18 to +231 of SEQ ID NO:2;

and

- (c) a polynucleotide encoding amino acid residues +1 to +231 of SEQ ID NO:2.

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25. (New) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 24, wherein said
polynucleotide is (a).

26. (New) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 24, wherein said
polynucleotide is (b).

¹Applicants have *not* canceled claim 7 at this time pending resolution of the restriction
issue, discussed herein.

27. (New) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 24, wherein said polynucleotide is (c).

28. (New) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 24, wherein the polynucleotide further comprises a heterologous polynucleotide.

29. (New) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 28, wherein said heterologous polynucleotide encodes a heterologous polypeptide.

30. (New) A vector comprising the isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 24.

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31. (New) The vector of claim 30, wherein said nucleic acid molecule is operably associated with a heterologous regulatory sequence that controls gene expression.

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32. (New) A recombinant host cell comprising the isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 24.

33. (New) The recombinant host cell of claim 32, wherein said nucleic acid molecule is operably associated with a heterologous regulatory sequence that controls gene expression.

34. (New) A method for producing a polypeptide, comprising:
- (a) culturing the recombinant host cell of claim 32 under conditions suitable to produce the polypeptide encoded by said polynucleotide; and
 - (b) recovering the polypeptide from the cell culture.
35. (New) A composition comprising the polynucleotide of claim 24 and a carrier.
36. (New) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a polynucleotide selected from the group consisting of:
- (a) a polynucleotide encoding the amino acid sequence of the full-length polypeptide encoded by the cDNA clone contained in ATCC Deposit No. 97756; and
 - (b) a polynucleotide encoding the amino acid sequence of the mature polypeptide encoded by the cDNA clone contained in ATCC Deposit No. 97756.
37. (New) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 36, wherein said polynucleotide is (a).
38. (New) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 36, wherein said polynucleotide is (b).
39. (New) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 36, wherein the polynucleotide further comprises a heterologous polynucleotide.

40. (New) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 39, wherein said heterologous polynucleotide encodes a heterologous polypeptide.

41. (New) A vector comprising the isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 36.

42. (New) The vector of claim 41, wherein said nucleic acid molecule is operably associated with a heterologous regulatory sequence that controls gene expression.

43. (New) A recombinant host cell comprising the isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 36.

44. (New) The recombinant host cell of claim 43, wherein said nucleic acid molecule is operably associated with a heterologous regulatory sequence that controls gene expression.

45. (New) A method for producing a polypeptide, comprising:

- (a) culturing the recombinant host cell of claim 43 under conditions suitable to produce the polypeptide encoded by said polynucleotide; and
- (b) recovering the polypeptide from the cell culture.

46. (New) A composition comprising the polynucleotide of claim 36 and a carrier.

47. (New) An isolated nucleic acid molecule consisting of a polynucleotide encoding at least 30 amino acid residues of SEQ ID NO:2.

48. (New) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 47, wherein said polynucleotide encodes at least 50 amino acid residues of SEQ ID NO:2.

49. (New) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 47, wherein the polynucleotide further comprises a heterologous polynucleotide.

50. (New) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 49, wherein said heterologous polynucleotide encodes a heterologous polypeptide.

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51. (New) A vector comprising the isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 47.

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52. (New) The vector of claim 51, wherein said nucleic acid molecule is operably associated with a heterologous regulatory sequence that controls gene expression.

53. (New) A recombinant host cell comprising the isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 47.

54. (New) The recombinant host cell of claim 53, wherein said nucleic acid molecule is operably associated with a heterologous regulatory sequence that controls gene expression.

55. (New) A method for producing a polypeptide, comprising:

- (a) culturing the recombinant host cell of claim 53 under conditions suitable to produce the polypeptide encoded by said polynucleotide; and
- (b) recovering the polypeptide from the cell culture.

56. (New) A composition comprising the polynucleotide of claim 47 and a carrier.

57. (New) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a polynucleotide encoding a first polypeptide 95% or more identical to a second polypeptide selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) amino acid residues -19 to +231 of SEQ ID NO:2; and
- (b) amino acid residues +1 to +231 of SEQ ID NO:2;

wherein said first polypeptide has mitogenic activity for connective tissue cells; or
wherein said first polypeptide binds an antibody having specificity for the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2.

58. (New) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 57, wherein said second polypeptide is (a).

59. (New) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 57, wherein said second polypeptide is (b).

60. (New) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 57, wherein the polynucleotide further comprises a heterologous polynucleotide.

61. (New) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 60, wherein said heterologous polynucleotide encodes a heterologous polypeptide.

62. (New) A vector comprising the isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 57.

63. (New) The vector of claim 62, wherein said nucleic acid molecule is operably associated with a heterologous regulatory sequence that controls gene expression.

a3 64. (New) A recombinant host cell comprising the isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 57.

65. (New) The recombinant host cell of claim 64, wherein said nucleic acid molecule is operably associated with a heterologous regulatory sequence that controls gene expression.

66. (New) A method for producing a polypeptide, comprising:

- (a) culturing the recombinant host cell of claim 64 under conditions suitable to produce the polypeptide encoded by said polynucleotide; and
- (b) recovering the polypeptide from the cell culture.

67. (New) A composition comprising the polynucleotide of claim 57 and a
carrier.

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